

## The 16th Heinz Awards



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### **Princeton University Professor Receives Prestigious Heinz Award Michael Oppenheimer leads policy change to reduce atmospheric pollution.**

PITTSBURGH, September 21, 2010 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced Michael Oppenheimer, Ph.D., professor and director of the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at Princeton University, as a recipient of a Heinz Award. A highly respected researcher of the effects of climate change, Dr. Oppenheimer is being honored for his leadership in assessing human-caused alterations to the atmosphere and congruently promoting policies to prevent future harm. Dr. Oppenheimer is a longtime resident of New York City.

The Heinz Awards, in their 16<sup>th</sup> year, honor Dr. Oppenheimer and nine environmental innovators.

Dr. Oppenheimer is a longtime participant in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is currently a coordinating lead author of the upcoming fifth IPCC assessment as well as on a special report on climate extremes and disasters. Prior to joining Princeton University, Dr. Oppenheimer was chief scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund for 21 years and still acts as a science advisor to the organization.

“Grappling with the acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming problems has meant dealing with issues of successively larger scales and greater scientific, technological and socioeconomic and political complexity,” said Dr. Oppenheimer. “Yet if we learn some of the lessons from our previous, successful experiences with acid rain and ozone depletion, calamitous levels of global warming can still be averted.”

The Heinz Awards annually honor the late U.S. Senator John Heinz’s long-standing commitment to the environment. This year’s awards, totaling \$1 million, recognize individuals who are addressing global change caused by the impact of human activities and natural processes on the environment. Dr. Oppenheimer has played an invaluable, ongoing role in the pursuit to address global climate change through his ability to communicate complex technical issues to non-scientists and educate policymakers on the state of climate change and the gravity of its implications.

“Dr. Oppenheimer is one of the most trusted experts on global warming in the country,” Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation, said today. “The insights Dr. Oppenheimer has brought to the vexing issues of global warming, acid rain and ozone depletion provide a valuable resource for our nation’s policymakers,” said Mrs. Heinz.

In addition to authoring over 100 peer-reviewed publications and serving as editor-in-chief of *Climatic Change Letters*, Dr. Oppenheimer is often called upon for his commentary on the science and policy of climate change. He drew international attention to global warming in the late 1980s by organizing workshops that helped precipitate the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Among other panels and advisory boards, he is a member of the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems of the National Academy of Sciences.

-In addition to Dr. Oppenheimer, the 16<sup>th</sup> Heinz Awards are honoring the following individuals:

- **James Balog**, Extreme Ice Survey (Boulder, Colo.) *For his dramatic use of photography to document the devastation of global warming*
- **Terrence Collins, Ph.D.**, Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pa.) *For using “green chemistry” to detoxify hazardous chemicals and training the next generation of scientists*
- **Gretchen Daily, Ph.D.**, Stanford University and the Natural Capital Project (Stanford, Calif.) *For her achievements demonstrating the financial value of natural ecosystems*
- **Richard Feely, Ph.D.**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (Seattle, Wash.) *For his extraordinary efforts to identify ocean acidity as global warming’s “evil twin”*
- **Cary Fowler, Ph.D.**, Global Crop Diversity Trust (Rome, Italy) *For establishing the Global Seed Vault to conserve genetic diversity of the world’s food plants despite climate change*
- **Lynn Goldman, M.D.**, George Washington University (Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Md.) *For promoting regulation of dangerous chemicals and expanding citizens’ right to know about pollution in their communities*
- **Elizabeth Kolbert**, *The New Yorker*, (Williamstown, Mass.) *For her groundbreaking environmental journalism and devotion to informing readers*
- **Daniel Sperling, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis (Davis, Calif.) *For advancing sustainable transportation policies and accelerating the transition to low-carbon alternative fuels nationwide*
- **Frederick vom Saal, Ph.D.**, University of Missouri (Columbia, Mo.) *For uncovering health problems linked to the chemical BPA*

### **About the Heinz Awards**

The Heinz Family Foundation, one of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, began as a charitable trust established by the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. His widow, Teresa Heinz, established the Heinz Awards in 1993 to honor and sustain the legacy of her late husband.

Nominations for the Heinz Awards are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously. Award recipients are selected by the board of directors for the Heinz Awards upon recommendation by a blue-ribbon panel of jurors.

In addition to the \$100,000 award for their unrestricted use, recipients are presented with a medallion inscribed with the image of Senator Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other.

The Heinz Awards will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 15.

For more information about the Heinz Awards, Heinz Family Foundation or the recipients, visit [www.heinzawards.net](http://www.heinzawards.net).